

# **FISCAL MEMORANDUM**

## **SB 2554 – HB 3418**

April 16, 2008

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (016776):** Authorizes local education agencies (LEAs) to promulgate rules and regulations prohibiting gang activity on school grounds. Requires all LEAs to annually conduct a study to determine the threat and prevalence of gang activity in their schools. If a substantial threat is found, then the LEA is required to conduct gang awareness and prevention classes for elementary and middle school students. These courses shall be taught by a certified school counselor. The Department of Education (DOE) shall assist LEAs in the development of this curriculum.

### **FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:**

Increase Local Gov't. Expenditures – Not Significant/Permissive

### **FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

**Increase State Expenditures – \$14,000/One-Time**

**Increase Local Expenditures\* - Exceeds \$100,000**

Assumptions applied to amendment:

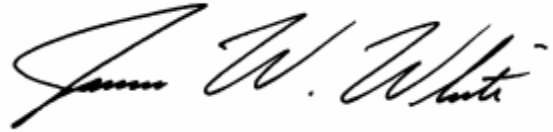
- Cost to the DOE to assist LEAs with curriculum development is estimated to be \$14,000. These costs will include travel for a curriculum team of LEA teachers and outside consultants, printing, and communications.
- According to the DOE, there are 1,403 public schools that serve grades K-8 in Tennessee. Of those, 381 do not have a certified school counselor.
- All costs for hiring of certified school counselors will be a local expenditure since these positions will not be covered under the BEP formula. The average salary and benefits is \$60,314 per instructional position with salary of \$45,503 and benefits of \$14,811.
- Determining a precise cost for the number of counselors needed is difficult since the number of LEAs who will need to institute this training and the exact number of corresponding schools who will need

counselors is unknown; however the local expenditures are reasonably estimated to exceed \$100,000.

\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

/msg